Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a broadcast-capable switch;

a host processor operably coupled with ~~a~~ the broadcast-capable switch;

a first broadcast-packet-processing device operably coupled with the broadcast-capable switch;

a second broadcast-packet-processing device operably coupled with the broadcast-capable switch; and

at least one of the first broadcast-packet-processing device and the second broadcast-packet-processing device operably coupled with the host processor, the host processor being configured to selectively transmit an attend signal to the at least one of the first broadcast-packet-processing device and the second broadcast-packet-processing device to which it is operably coupled.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said at least one of the first broadcast-packet-processing device and the second broadcast-packet-processing device operably coupled with the host processor comprises:

the first broadcast-packet-processing device and the second broadcast-packet-processing device operably coupled with the host processor.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said at least one of the first broadcast-packet-processing device and the second broadcast-packet-processing device operably coupled with the host processor comprises:

the first broadcast-packet-processing device operably coupled with the host processor; and

the second broadcast-packet-processing device operably coupled with the first broadcast-packet-processing device.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said broadcast-capable switch comprises:

an Ethernet-capable switch.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 4, wherein said Ethernet-capable switch comprises:

a shared medium Ethernet switch.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 4, wherein said Ethernet-capable switch comprises:

a non-shared medium Ethernet switch.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said first broadcast-packet-processing device operably coupled with the broadcast-capable switch comprises:

an Ethernet-broadcast-packet-processing device and an Ethernet-capable switch operable coupled by a shared medium.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said first broadcast-packet-processing device operably coupled with the broadcast-capable switch comprises:

an Ethernet-broadcast-packet-processing device and an Ethernet-capable switch operably coupled by a non-shared medium.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said second broadcast-packet-processing device operably coupled with the broadcast-capable switch comprises:

an Ethernet-broadcast-packet-processing device and an Ethernet-capable switch operable coupled by a shared medium.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said second broadcast-packet-processing device operably coupled with the broadcast-capable switch comprises:

an Ethernet-broadcast-packet-processing device and an Ethernet-capable switch operably coupled by a non-shared medium.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said first broadcast-packet-processing device comprises:

an address-assignment-recognition device.

12. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said second broadcast-packet-processing device comprises:

an address-assignment-recognition device.

13. (Original) A method comprising:

directing at least one of a first broadcast-packet-processing device and a second broadcast-packet-processing device to enter an ignore-initial-address-assignment mode;

directing the first broadcast-packet-processing device to enter a process-initial-address-assignment mode;

transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the first broadcast-packet-processing device;

directing the second broadcast-packet-processing device to enter a process-initial-address-assignment mode; and

transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the second broadcast-packet-processing device.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein said directing a first broadcast-packet-processing device and a second broadcast-packet-processing device to enter an ignore-initial-address-assignment mode comprises:

forcing a first attend-ignore line associated with the first broadcast-packet-processing device into an ignore value; and

forcing, substantially simultaneously with said forcing the first attend-ignore line, a second attend-ignore line associated with the second broadcast-packet-processing device into an ignore value.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein said directing a first broadcast-packet-processing device and a second broadcast-packet-processing device to enter an ignore-initial-address-assignment mode comprises:

forcing a first attend-ignore line associated with the first broadcast-packet-processing device into an ignore value; and

forcing, sequential to said forcing the first attend-ignore line, a second attend-ignore line associated with the second broadcast-packet-processing device into an ignore value.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein said directing the first broadcast-packet-processing device to enter a process-initial-address-assignment mode comprises:

forcing a first attend-ignore line associated with the first broadcast-packet-processing device into an attend value.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein said directing the second broadcast-packet-processing device to enter a process-initial-address-assignment mode comprises:

forcing a second attend-ignore line associated with the second broadcast-packet-processing device into an attend value.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein said forcing a second attend-ignore line associated with the second broadcast-packet-processing device into an attend value comprises:

the first broadcast-packet-processing device forcing the second attend-ignore line associated with the second broadcast-packet-processing device into the attend value.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein said transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the first broadcast-packet-processing device comprises:

transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the first broadcast-packet-processing device until an acknowledgment from the first broadcast-packet-processing device is received.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein said transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the second broadcast-packet-processing device comprises:

transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the second broadcast-packet-processing device until an acknowledgment from the second broadcast-packet-processing device is received.

21. (Original) A system comprising:

means for directing at least one of a first broadcast-packet-processing device and a second broadcast-packet-processing device to enter an ignore-initial-address-assignment mode;

means for directing the first broadcast-packet-processing device to enter a process-initial-address-assignment mode;

means for transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the first broadcast-packet-processing device;

means for directing the second broadcast-packet-processing device to enter a process-initial-address-assignment mode; and

means for transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the second broadcast-packet-processing device.

22. (Original) The system of Claim 21, wherein said means for directing a first broadcast-packet-processing device and a second broadcast-packet-processing device to enter an ignore-initial-address-assignment mode comprises:

means for forcing a first attend-ignore line associated with the first broadcast-packet-processing device into an ignore value; and

means for forcing, substantially simultaneously with said forcing the first attend-ignore line, a second attend-ignore line associated with the second broadcast-packet-processing device into an ignore value.

23. (Original) The system of Claim 21, wherein said means for directing a first broadcast-packet-processing device and a second broadcast-packet-processing device to enter an ignore-initial-address-assignment mode comprises:

means for forcing a first attend-ignore line associated with the first broadcast-packet-processing device into an ignore value; and

means for forcing, sequential to said forcing the first attend-ignore line, a second attend-ignore line associated with second the broadcast-packet-processing device into an ignore value.

24. (Original) The system of Claim 21, wherein said means for directing the first broadcast-packet-processing device to enter a process-initial-address-assignment mode comprises:

means for forcing a first attend-ignore line associated with the first broadcast-packet-processing device into an attend value.

25. (Original) The system of Claim 21, wherein said means for directing the second broadcast-packet-processing device to enter a process-initial-address-assignment mode comprises:

means for forcing a second attend-ignore line associated with the second broadcast-packet-processing device into an attend value.

26. (Original) The system of Claim 25, wherein said means for forcing a second attend-ignore line associated with the second broadcast-packet-processing device into an attend value comprises:

the first broadcast-packet-processing device forcing the second attend-ignore line associated with the second broadcast-packet-processing device into the attend value.

27. (Original) The system of Claim 21, wherein said means for transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the first broadcast-packet-processing device comprises:

means for transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the first broadcast-packet-processing device until an acknowledgment from the first broadcast-packet-processing device is received.

28. (Original) The system of Claim 21, wherein said means for transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the second broadcast-packet-processing device comprises:

means for transmitting a broadcast packet containing payload having an address-assignment message intended for the second broadcast-packet-processing device until an acknowledgment from the second broadcast-packet-processing device is received.

29. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a broadcast packet containing payload having an specific-address assignment message;

accepting an address assignment as indicated by the specific-address assignment message; and

sending an acknowledgment upon completion of said accepting the address assignment as indicated by the specific-address assignment message.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 29, wherein said receiving a broadcast packet containing payload having a specific-address assignment message comprises:

receiving a broadcast packet containing payload having an specific Media Access Control (MAC) address assignment message.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 29, ~~wherein said~~ further comprising:

receiving a second broadcast packet containing payload having ~~a~~ the specific-address assignment ~~message comprises:~~ message;

recognizing that an address assignment as indicated by the specific-address assignment message has already been achieved; and

sending an acknowledgment of the address assignment indicated by the specific-address assignment message.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 29, ~~wherein said~~ further comprising:

receiving a second broadcast packet containing payload having a second specific-address assignment ~~message comprises:~~ message;

determining that an address assignment different from the second specific-address has previously been accepted; and

ignoring the second specific-address assignment message.

34. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

means for receiving a broadcast packet containing payload having an specific-address assignment message;

means for accepting an address assignment as indicated by the specific-address assignment message; and

means for sending an acknowledgment upon completion of said accepting the address assignment as indicated by the specific-address assignment message..

35. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 34, wherein said means for receiving a broadcast packet containing payload having a specific-address assignment message comprises:

means for receiving a broadcast packet containing payload having an specific Media Access Control (MAC) address assignment message.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 34, ~~wherein said means for receiving a broadcast packet containing payload having a specific-address assignment message comprises:~~ further comprising:

means for recognizing that an address assignment as indicated by the specific-address assignment message has already been achieved. ~~achieved; and~~

~~means for sending an acknowledgment of the address assignment indicated by the specific-address assignment message.~~

38. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 34, ~~wherein said means for receiving a broadcast packet containing payload having a specific-address assignment message comprises~~ further comprising:

means for determining that an address assignment different from the specific-address has previously been accepted.; ~~and~~

39. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a packet switch;

a host processor operably coupled with ~~a~~ the packet switch;

a first multi-channel device, having a Slave Initial Boot Packet Processing Device, operably coupled with the packet switch; and

a second multi-channel device, having a Slave Initial Boot Packet Processing Device, operably coupled with the packet switch.

40. (Original) The system of Claim 39, wherein said first multi-channel device is substantially indistinguishable from said second multi-channel device.

41. (Original) The system of Claim 40, wherein said first multi-channel device is substantially indistinguishable from said second multi-channel device comprises:

said first multi-channel device having a first a boot-control code Read Only Memory; and

said second multi-channel device having a second boot-control code Read Only Memory substantially similar to the first boot-control code Read Only Memory.

42. (Original) The system of Claim 39, wherein said first multi-channel device, having a Slave Initial Boot Packet Processing Device, operably coupled with the packet switch comprises:

a first packet-processing device, having an assigned address, uniquely coupled with the first multi-channel device.

43. (Original) The system of Claim 39, wherein said second multi-channel device, having a Slave Initial Boot Packet Processing Device, operably coupled with the packet switch comprises:

a second packet-processing device having an assigned address, uniquely coupled with the first multi-channel device.

44. (Original) The system of Claim 43, wherein the second packet-processing device having an assigned address comprises:

the second packet-processing device having an assigned Media Access Control address.

45-54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of Claim 53, wherein said~~ A method comprising:

receiving a broadcast packet having an initial boot-up message ~~comprises:~~;

determining that boot-control code has previously been executed; and

sending an acknowledgment.

56.-58. (Canceled).

59. (New) A method of booting a computing device, the method comprising:

receiving a broadcast packet having an initial boot message;

when a boot-control code has not previously been executed by the computing device:

executing the boot control code in response to the received broadcast packet; and

sending an acknowledgement; and

when the boot-control code has previously been executed by the computing device, sending an acknowledgement in response to the received broadcast packet.

60. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein the computing device comprises a broadcast-packet processing device.